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CLARENCE HARMON
MAYOROFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
MISSOURI

August 18, 2000

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Mr. Dennis Grams
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Region VII
901 N. Fifth Street
Kansas City, MO 66101

✓ Mr. Stephen H. McCracken
Project Manager
United States Department of Energy
Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project
7295 Highway 94 South
St. Charles, MO 63301

Dear Messrs. Grams and McCracken:

I am writing to express my strong concern with the proposed plan for the groundwater cleanup at the Weldon Spring site. As Mayor, my first responsibility is to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the City of St. Louis. The Weldon Spring project has the potential to negatively affect not only my constituency, but citizens throughout our metropolitan area. I know that my concern is shared by chief elected officials in St. Louis County and St. Charles County and by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. In addition, both the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen and the St. Louis County Council have recently passed resolutions on this crucial issue.

Weldon Spring is part of a major watershed that serves the entire metropolitan St. Louis area. The groundwater from this site flows into the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers that serve as primary sources for the entire region's drinking water, including the City of St. Louis. The site is upstream from the City of St. Louis, making our citizens especially susceptible to risks posed by runoff at Weldon Spring. It is incumbent upon the federal government to ensure

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our residents' protection from the contaminated groundwater emanating from this site.


It is my hope that the federal government will illustrate to state and local officials that it has evaluated *all* of the possible options for proper remediation of the site. I would also hope that you will ensure that only the most updated and effective technologies will be employed in the implementation of any cleanup plan.

Like many of this nation's urban centers, the City of St. Louis currently faces many budget challenges. I, therefore, must stress the importance of DOE and EPA identifying a stable funding stream and mechanism for perpetual maintenance and oversight at Weldon Spring. I would be extremely dismayed if at sometime, in the near or distant future, local and state officials were asked to find a way to foot the bills for continued maintenance at the Weldon Spring site. We, in the City of St. Louis, already have numerous environmental projects that require our prioritization and resources, it would be unacceptable for Weldon Spring to be added to the list.

During my tenure as Mayor, we have successfully collaborated with the federal government on many projects. This administration has proven its concern for major metropolitan areas and has demonstrated its commitment to being a good neighbor. We look forward to a resolution of this issue that benefits all of our citizens.

Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


Clarence Harmon
MAYOR

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